UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/599
19 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Illicit trafficking in nuclear materials continues and is a matter of growing concern. The States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty have decided to extend the Treaty indefinitely. The international community also needs to place constraints on non-State actors, whose activities are the more dangerous because of their clandestine nature. I have been following this issue closely for over a year. Some months ago I asked Mr. Jacques Attali to prepare for me a personal report on it. Mr. Attali's conclusions, which he has since published in book form, have strengthened my conviction that there is a need for concerted action by States and the relevant intergovernmental agencies.

I am in close touch with Dr. Hans Blix, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is giving this issue high priority and has begun to execute an action plan to address it. The Agency's concern is matched by many Governments, as was demonstrated when, at its recent meeting in Halifax, the Group of Seven (G-7) accepted the offer of President Yeltsin to host a summit in the spring to discuss nuclear safety, including the issue of illicit trafficking. There is also a clear public perception that this is a serious matter, as evidenced by the number of references in the media and by the activity of non-governmental organizations.

In the circumstances the Security Council may wish to consider the usefulness of expressing its own appreciation of the importance of this issue by issuing a statement in which it would support the IAEA's efforts and call on the international community to increase its vigilance. The statement could also welcome the initiative of President Yeltsin. This action by the Council would complement the references to nuclear proliferation in its Statement of 31 January 1992.

I should be grateful if you could bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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